

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐
no ☐

Property Name: Hill House Inventory Number: BA-825
Address: 14624 Thornton Mill Road City: Sparks Zip Code: 21152-9633
County: Baltimore USGS Topographic Map: Hereford
Owner: Sydney Crosby Hopkins Is the property being evaluated a district? ☐ yes
Tax Parcel Number: 402 Tax Map Number: 34 Tax Account ID Number: 2200029082
Project: Walsh Property Floodplain Study Agency: MDE Permit Tracking #200366127/N66158
Site visit by MHT Staff: ☒ no ☐ yes Name: _____ Date: _____
Is the property located within a historic district? ☒ yes ☐ no

If the property is within a district

District Inventory Number: BA- 2214

NR-listed district ☒ yes Eligible district ☐ yes District Name: Western Run-Belfast Road Historic District

Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource ☒ yes ☐ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context ☐

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)

Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible ☐ yes ☐ no

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

Introduction

Hill House was documented in September 1976 on a Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form (MIHP No. BA-825) (Black and Wollon 1976a). The property is located within the Western Run-Belfast Road Historic District (MIHP No. BA-2214), which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in March 1978 (Black and Wollon 1976b). The purpose of this Determination of Eligibility form is to update the 1976 MIHP form and to provide an assessment of the potential of the resource to contribute to the significance of the historic district. A brief reconnaissance survey of Hill House was conducted on 3 October 2006; interior access was not possible.

Description

Hill House, located at 14626 Thornton Mill Road, is a log and stone dwelling constructed between ca. 1800 and ca. 1850. The dwelling, which is sited near the road, stands atop a small hill on the 2.39-acre property (Maryland

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Comments: Contributes to BA-2214

Jonathan Seay
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

11/28/06
Date

P. Kurtz
Reviewer, NR Program

11/28/06
Date

200 003702

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 1

BA-825

Department of Assessments and Taxation 2006). When the 1976 documentation was prepared, the property also included a wood-frame privy that probably was constructed in the early twentieth century (Black and Wollon 1976a:7-2). Two late-twentieth century, pre-fabricated outbuildings are located east of the dwelling.

The dwelling's south elevation currently serves as the principal front; however, it is not clear whether the north or south elevation was the original façade. Only the north elevation was visible during the brief survey. The house comprises a ca. 1800 two-story, log section with a ca. 1850 two-story, stone section added to the east end. A late twentieth-century, two-story, wood-frame addition is diagonally connected to the east end of the stone section's south elevation via a one-and-one-half-story, wood-frame hyphen.

The log and stone sections basically retain the form and materials described in MIHP Form BA-825 prepared in 1976 (Black and Wollon 1976a). The two-story, side-by-side sections have a continuous gable roof sheathed in asphalt shingles; gable returns are present. An interior brick chimney rises at each gable end. Both sections contain two bays and generally are illuminated by wood-frame, six-over-six-light windows. Two four-light, fixed sash windows are located in the west gable of the randomly-laid stone section.

As documented in 1976, the log section originally was one-and-one-half stories in height. The upper story later was raised with wood framing to two stories, perhaps when the stone section was constructed (Black and Wollon 1976a:7). Exterior walls of the log section are clad with wood shingles. According to MIHP Form BA-825, the wood shingles cover German siding (Black and Wollon 1976a:7). A small, one-and-one-half-story, log addition with a shed roof is located on the west end of the two-story log section. The addition, which may have been built as a kitchen or trade workshop shortly after the original log section was constructed, is clad in the same materials as the original section (Black and Wollon 1976a:7).

The late twentieth-century, two-story, wood-frame addition and the one-and-one-half-story hyphen that diagonally connects it to the south elevation of the stone section terminate in gable roofs sheathed in asphalt shingles. Exterior walls are clad with horizontal siding; during the brief survey, it was not possible to determine if the siding is wood or synthetic material. A chimney rises at the southeast gable end of the addition.

Outbuildings

The 1976 MIHP form documented a wood-frame, shed-roof, two-seat privy located south of the dwelling (Black and Wollon 1976a:7-2). The privy probably was constructed in the early twentieth century. At the time of the 1976 documentation, exterior walls were clad with German siding. The privy was not located during the brief survey; it is unclear if the building survives.

The two late twentieth-century, pre-fabricated outbuildings located east of the dwelling were not inspected during the current survey.

History

Settlement within the Western Run-Belfast Road Historic District began in the eighteenth century. The region was primarily agricultural and rich in limestone, a resource used for both fertilizer and construction. The area historically contained many saw and grist mills to aid the local farmers. Small villages and hamlets, many of which no longer survive, sprang up at various crossroads within the region. At the time of the 1976 National Register nomination, many descendants of the original settlers continued to reside within the district on the land farmed by their ancestors. Numerous early nineteenth-century dwellings currently survive (Black and Wollon 1976b).

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 2

BA-825

Research previously conducted on Hill House is documented in MIHP Form BA-825 (Black and Wollon 1976a). In 1794, Amos Ogden acquired a 150-acre tract of land known as Taylor's Discovery. The ca. 1800 log section of Hill House may have been Ogden's first residence on the property while he constructed a barn and the nearby house called Strawberry Hill (MIHP No. BA-189) in 1808 and 1811, respectively (Black and Wollon 1976a:8).

Evaluation

Hill House is located within the Western Run-Belfast Road Historic District (MIHP No. BA-2214), which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Western Run-Belfast Road Historic District is the eastern extension of the Worthington Valley Historic District (MIHP No. BA-2215), also listed in the National Register. The Western Run-Belfast Road Historic District is a large, rural historic district encompassing 9,975 acres; the district is significant for its association with agriculture in Baltimore County applying National Register Criterion A and for architecture applying National Register Criterion C. The period of significance discussed in the National Register nomination form was unspecified; however, the nomination form emphasized built resources constructed during the late-eighteenth century and the first half of the nineteenth century (Black and Wollon 1976b). As documented in MIHP No. BA-2214:

"Historically, this district has always been an agricultural area. From the earliest times, it was recognized for the large and prosperous farms which produced crops of corn and grass, cattle and sheep" (Black and Wollon 1976b:8-11).

The Western Run-Belfast Road Historic District contains a collection of farmsteads, houses, and agricultural outbuildings that exhibit the distinctive characteristics of their types, periods, and methods of construction applying National Register Criterion C, with particular emphasis on buildings constructed between the late-eighteenth century through ca. 1850. According to MIHP No. BA-2214:

"Structures in this district have always been traditional in form and detail, little affected by current style or taste. The abundant stone is the typical building material, recognized and appreciated for its permanence, obviously a most important detail to early builders. The absence of important late nineteenth-century houses indicates the early prosperity which the area enjoyed, the conservative taste of its inhabitants and the degree of permanence which earlier builders incorporated into their structures" (Black and Wollon 1976b:7-1).

Hill House is a representative example of the type, period, and method of construction of dwellings constructed during the first half of the nineteenth century in the district; references to the house were made in the 1976 Western Run-Belfast Road Historic District nomination form (Black and Wollon 1976b:7-2, 7-6). Although most houses in the region were built of stone, several small log houses survived when the 1976 nomination was prepared; most of these log houses had been expanded. The ca. 1800 original section of Hill House is constructed of log. The house was expanded with the ca. 1850 stone section, which utilized the typical nineteenth-century building material for the region. As is typical for dwellings in the area, the house is traditional in form and does not reflect stylistic trends. Applying National Register Criterion C, Hill House (MIHP No. BA-825) possesses the qualities of significance and integrity necessary to be a contributing resource to the Western Run-Belfast Road Historic District. The house retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Due to limited access, the early twentieth-century privy (if surviving) was not located nor evaluated as part of the current investigation.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 3

BA-825

References Cited

Black, Catherine F., and James T. Wollon, Jr.

1976a Hill House. Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form BA-825. On file at Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.

1976b Western Run-Belfast Road Historic District. National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form/Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties No. BA-2214. On file at Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.

Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation

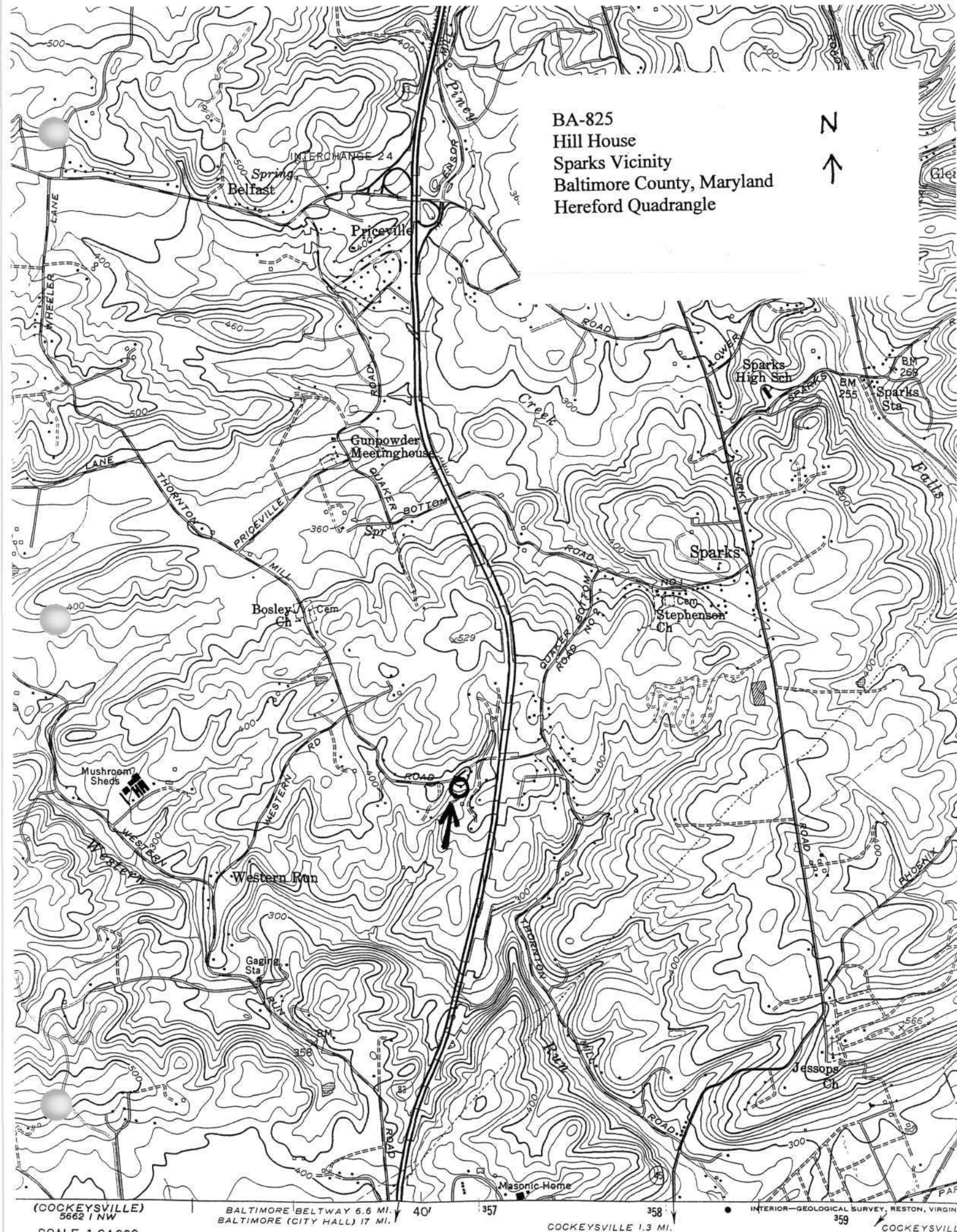
2006 Real Property Data, Baltimore County.

Kathryn Dixon, Historic
Preservation Specialist;
Katherine Grandine, Senior Project
Manager -
R. Christopher Goodwin &
Associates, Inc.

Prepared by:

Date Prepared: October 2006

BA-825
Hill House
Sparks Vicinity
Baltimore County, Maryland
Hereford Quadrangle



(COCKEYSVILLE)
5662 1 NW

SCALE 1:24,000

BALTIMORE BELTWAY 6.6 MI.
BALTIMORE (CITY HALL) 17 MI.

40'

357

COCKEYSVILLE 1.3 MI.

358

INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA

359

COCKEYSVILLE



BA-825

Hill House

Baltimore Co., MD

RCG+A, Inc.

October 2006

Neg.: MD SHPO

NE corner

1/1

Hill House
Southwest side of Thornton
Mill Rd. near Western Rd.
Not accessible
No date

This small, simple house was erected either as a tenant house or possibly as the owner's first basic shelter. It may be one of "two old houses" belonging to Amos Ogden, mentioned in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax. Or it may have also been the dwelling of a rural merchant or tradesman. The shed-roofed west wing may have served originally as a kitchen, or it may have served a trade. Privies are among the rarest of outbuildings to survive, and the one on this property is surprisingly sophisticated for this utterly simple house.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA-825

MAG# 0308255204

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Hill House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Southwest side Thornton Mill Road near Western Road

CITY, TOWN

Sparks

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

___ STRUCTURE

___ SITE

___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

___ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___ IN PROCESS

___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

___ UNOCCUPIED

___ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

___ YES: RESTRICTED

___ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

PRESENT USE

___ AGRICULTURE

___ COMMERCIAL

___ EDUCATIONAL

___ ENTERTAINMENT

___ GOVERNMENT

___ INDUSTRIAL

___ MILITARY

___ MUSEUM

___ PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___ RELIGIOUS

___ SCIENTIFIC

___ TRANSPORTATION

___ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Allen C. Hopkins

Telephone #: 771-4847

STREET & NUMBER

Thornton Mill Road

CITY, TOWN

Sparks

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21152

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: 4795

Folio #: 476

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

BA-825

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Hill House is a two storey house, partly log covered with German siding and recovered with wood shingles, partly rubble stone. Closely oriented to the road, the present entrance front is the south, away from the road; both north and south are, architecturally, of about equal importance. The westerly two bays of the house are of log construction; the four walls of that construction indicate that section to be the first built. The log walls extend only to the second storey windowsills; the walls were raised with frame construction later, perhaps when the stone section was built to the east. It is more or less two bays in length: in the south facade, the westerly bay of the first storey has a window and the easterly bay of the second has the window; on the north facade, a door is through the westerly bay and a window is above it, and the easterly bay has but one window in the first storey.

A shed-roofed wing of one storey-with-loft is at the west end, its tallest wall being its north. It, too, is of log construction, covered with German siding and recovered with wood shingles. It has no east wall, the taller middle section of the house serving that function. In sequence, its construction came after that of the middle section, but it may be virtually contemporary with that section, and its function was as a kitchen, or as a space dedicated to a particular trade which may have been carried on here.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE-- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES Unknown

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This small, simple house was erected either as a tenant house or possibly as the owner's first basic shelter. It may be one of "two old houses" belonging to Amos Ogden, mentioned in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax (no dimensions are given). Amos Ogden acquired title to the property in 1794 and built a barn in 1808 and a larger house, Strawberry Hill (q.v.), in 1811. Possibly he occupied this unassuming house while erecting his future home.

There appears to have been some uncertainty about the property line at the point where Hill House stands, for several deeds are recorded which skirt the lot and several attempts were made to correct the boundary between this property and Smallwood Resurveyed which adjoined it to the east. The 1801 patent for the latter deliberately omits Hill House, leading to the supposition that the house was standing at that time.

With its close orientation to the road, the possibility exists that this may have been the home of a rural merchant or tradesman. The shed-roofed west wing may have served originally as a kitchen, or it may have served a trade. The privy is surprisingly sophisticated for this utterly simple house and its survival is unusual.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baltimore County Taxes: 1896, 1876, 1833, 1824, 1823, 1818, 1813.

1798 Federal Direct Tax

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Baltimore City and Baltimore County.
(Philadelphia, 1881).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.68 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Catharine F. Black and James T. Wollon, Jr. AIA

ORGANIZATION

For Valleys Historical District Project

DATE

September 1976

STREET & NUMBER

1114 Bellemore Road

TELEPHONE

323-3798

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Continuation Sheet #1

Question #7 continued

The dimensions (approximate) of the three sections are as follows:

Original log section:	15 by 21 feet
Log wing:	10½ by 13 feet
Stone wing:	15 by 17 feet

The basic log construction may date from the eighteenth century, but most likely it dates from the early nineteenth; the stone wing probably dates from the middle of the nineteenth century.

The principal entrance is through the westerly bay of the middle log section's south facade. Windows are 6/6, with shutters or blinds missing. The loft window high in the north wall of the west wing is 6/3. The gable roof extends over the end walls with a simple, moderately heavy overhang, boldly returning at the eaves. A single-flue brick end chimney rises from each gable end, and formerly, the shed-roofed west wing is said to have had a chimney in its northwest corner.

Inside, each section is a single room in each storey. The loft floor of the shed-roofed wing is removed, but the joists remain and the former loft is now open to the room below. An enclosed winding stair extends to the second and to the attic floors in the southeast corner of the middle (original) section, and another stair, in the southwest corner of the stone wing, has been removed. There are no fireplaces, but in the cellar of the stone wing (the only section with a cellar) the chimney foundation is wide, indicating the original existence of a fireplace above. Exposed second floor joists are straight-sawn. In the attic, the log rafters of the middle log section are mitered at the ridge, but a hewn face, to which plaster lathes were once fastened with

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

Continuation Sheet #2

Question #7 continued

cut nails, indicates them to be reused materials, probably from the original, lower roof. The log rafters of the stone wing are half-lapped and pegged at the ridge.

Interior finishes are very plain; early pieces of woodwork are void of moldings, except for a beaded edge. Early doors are of vertical beaded boards.

South of the house is a frame, shed-roofed privy, covered externally with German siding, finished internally with (sawn) lathe and plaster. Its entrance is through its west side, near the northwest corner; other openings include a small window through the tall north side, and a long cleanout door low in the south side. The seat, along the south side, contains two holes.